

HCS SB 696 -- MOTOR VEHICLES

SPONSOR: Schaefer (Cornejo)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Committee on General Laws by a vote of 14 to 0.

This bill changes the laws regarding motor vehicles. In its main provisions, the bill:

- (1) Allows an individual who has received the Korea Defense Service Medal to apply for a special license plate. To obtain the plate, an individual must submit an application to the Director of the Department of Revenue, furnish proof of eligibility for the plates as the department director may require, and pay an additional \$15 fee for each set of plates. The plates are not transferable to any other person, but in the event of the death of a qualified person, a registered co-owner of the vehicle must be entitled to operate the vehicle with the plates until they expire (Section 301.474, RSMo);
- (2) Specifies that filing a petition for trial de novo results in the stay of the driver's license suspension or revocation order and the issuance of a temporary license until a final order is issued (Section 302.535);
- (3) Increases the maximum penalty for a person who causes physical injury to a person by failing to yield the right-of-way from \$200 to \$1,000, and requires a minimum penalty of \$500 to be assessed;
- (4) Requires a minimum penalty of \$1,000 to be assessed in the case of serious physical injury and increases the maximum penalty from \$500 to \$3,000;
- (5) Increases the maximum penalty for a person who causes the death of another person by failing to yield the right-of-way from \$1,000 to \$10,000, and requires a minimum of \$5,000 to be assessed;
- (6) Specifies that a person who causes a fatality by failing to yield the right-of-way must successfully complete a driver-improvement program (Section 304.351); and
- (7) Allows for the sale of motorcycles and other specified powersports vehicles to be sold on Sundays (Section 578.120).

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill may deter drivers from allowing themselves to become distracted while operating a motor vehicle and failing to yield to others on the road.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Jones (50); Freedom of Road Riders; Tony Shepherd, ABATE Missouri; and Leo McDonald.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.